



PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

October 18, 2002

JACKSONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 26 YEARS 10 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DRUGS AND A GUN

Jacksonville, Florida— Friday, October 18, 2002, United States District Judge Henry Lee Adams, Jr., sentenced Adrian Rubin Kelly, age 35, Jacksonville, Florida, to 26 years 10 months' imprisonment followed by 5 years' supervised release for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and carrying a firearm during a drug-trafficking offense.

Kelly had been arrested on Christmas Day 2001 after Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Deputies had been called to a dispute in a Northside apartment complex. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, in partnership under the United States' Project Safe Neighborhood, determined that Kelly's extensive criminal record qualified him for sentencing enhancements as an armed career criminal. Kelly was subsequently indicted for the three federal charges by a grand jury in the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida. On July 17, 2002, a jury in United States District Court had found Kelly guilty of all charges after trial. Judge Adams sentenced Kelly today after finding in fact that he did qualify as an armed career criminal.

This is another case indicted as a part the Department of Justice program “Project Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). U. S. Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials and calling our effort “Project Safe Neighborhoods - Operation HALT the Violence!”. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ronald T. Henry of the Jacksonville Division of the Middle District of Florida.